

In the claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A process for the purification of a substance, wherein a material containing the substance, and magnetic particles coated or treated with a reagent which binds the particles to the substance, are dispensed in a first medium, a binding reaction is let to take place, in which reaction the substance is bound to the particles, and

a magnetic probe is pushed into the medium, whereby the particles adhere to the probe, and the probe together with the particles and the substance bound to them is transferred to a second medium, and if desired, separated from the second medium and transferred to a third medium,

characterized in that

the probe together with the particles and the substance bound to them is transferred to a second medium, and

wherein a surface tension releasing agent is dispensed in at least one of the mediums, preferably at least to the first medium, and most preferably to all mediums, before the probe and the particles are transferred from it.

2. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the surface tension releasing compound agent is selected from a group consisting of a tenside, alcohol, protein, or a salt or and carbohydrate.

3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the surface tension releasing compound agent is a tenside, such as in the form of a detergent.

4. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 3, wherein the concentration of the tenside is 0.001 – to 0.5% (w/v), preferably 0.005 – 0.1% (w/v), and most preferably 0.01 – 0.05% (w/v).

5. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the surface tension releasing compound agent is a protein.

6. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 5, wherein the concentration of the protein is 0.1 – to 10% (w/v), ~~preferably 0.25 – 5% (w/v), and most preferably 0.5 – 2%~~ (w/v).

7. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the surface tension releasing compound agent is a salt.

8. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 7, wherein the concentration of the salt is 0.1 – to 10 M, ~~preferably 0.1 – 7 M~~.

9. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 for the purification of a material selected from a group consisting of cells, viruses, subcellular organelles, proteins, or and nucleic acid materials.

10. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 9 for the purification of nucleic acid materials.

11. (Currently Amended) A method according to any of claims 1 – 10 claim 1, wherein the size of the magnetic particles is less than 50 μm , ~~preferably 0.1 – 10 μm , and most preferably 1 – 5 μm~~ .

12. (Currently Amended) A method according to any of claim 1 – 11 claim 1, wherein the concentration of the magnetic particles is 0.01 – to 5 mg/ml, ~~preferably 0.5 – 3 mg/ml, and most preferably 0.2 – 2 mg/ml~~.

13. (Currently Amended) A method for separating magnetic particles by means of a magnetic probe from a medium, characterized in that said method comprising the step of

B
1
CONT'D

dispensing a surface tension releasing agent is dispensed into the medium before the particles are separated from the medium.

14. (Currently Amended) A method for improving the adherence of magnetic particles from a liquid medium to a magnetic probe to be pushed into the medium, characterized in that said method comprising the step of dispensing a surface tension releasing agent is dispensed into the medium before the particles are adhered to the probe.

15. (New) A method according to claim 1, wherein the probe together with the particles and the substance bound to them is separated from the second medium and transferred to a third medium.

16. (New) A method according to claim 1, where a surface tension releasing agent is dispensed in at least the first medium before the probe and the particles are transferred from it.

17. (New) A method according to claim 1, wherein a surface tension releasing agent is dispensed in all media before the probe and the particles are transferred therefrom.

18. (New) A method according to claim 4, wherein the concentration of the tenside is 0.005 to 0.1% (w/v).

19. (New) A method according to claim 18, wherein the concentration of the tenside is 0.01 to 0.05% (w/v).

20. (New) A method according to claim 6, wherein the concentration of the protein is 0.25 to 5% (w/v).

21. (New) A method according to claim 20, wherein the concentration of the protein is 0.5 to 2% (w/v).

B
CONT'D

22. (New) A method according to claim 8, wherein the concentration of the salt is 0.1 to 7 M.

23. (New) A method according to claim 11, wherein the size of the magnetic particles is 0.1 to 10 μm .

24. (New) A method according to claim 23, wherein the size of the magnetic particles is 1 to 5 μm .

25. (New) A method according to claim 12, wherein the concentration of the magnetic particles is 0.5 to 3 mg/ml.

26. (New) A method according to claim 25, wherein the concentration of the magnetic particles 0.2 to 2 mg/ml.

B
CONC'D